



Get Wild About Reading!
with

The Name Jar

by Yangsook Choi

In, "**Angelina's Island**" (BETWEEN THE LIONS Episode #910), a young girl living in New York City longs for her grandmother and her faraway home in Jamaica, just like Unhei misses her Korean grandmother and home in *The Name Jar*.

BOOK TALK

Before you read *The Name Jar*

Start a conversation that will get children excited about the story. You may want to provide a simple introduction, such as, *This is a story about Unhei, a girl who recently moved from Korea to America and is getting used to a new school*. Asking questions is a great way to get children involved. Try these to get started:

- Do you know anyone from Korea or from any other country outside the U.S.?
- Have you ever changed schools? What was the first day like?
- If you could pick any name for yourself, what would it be?

As you read *The Name Jar*

Encourage children to look closely at the illustrations, ask questions, or predict what will happen next in the story. Also point out interesting pictures or words as you read. If a word seems unfamiliar, help children think about its meaning in the story, then define it for them using simple terms.

Word Watch:

- *blush*: to become red or rosy in the face from embarrassment
- *signature*: your own name, written by you

After you read *The Name Jar*

Ask children whether or not they liked the story and find out why. Help them explore the story and make personal connections with the characters or plot. Ask questions, such as:

- Have you or your family ever flown on a plane? Where?
- How was Joey trying to help Unhei?
- Why did Unhei keep her Korean name?



FUN THINGS TO DO

Doing a hands-on activity after reading a book aloud gives children a chance to be creative and makes the story experience more personal and memorable. Each of these activities is easy and uses everyday materials. You can try one or more, adapt them, or make up your own!

Activity #1: Unhei loves the Korean name stamp her grandmother gave her. Have children make their own stamp. Ask them to think of a symbol for their name and draw it on a piece of paper. Have children draw the pattern onto the flat side of a potato or an apple that has been cut in half, using a marker. You will need to carefully carve around the outline of the pattern with a small sharp knife. Then cut away about a half inch of the surrounding part of the potato, the part you don't want to show when the print is made. Have children dip the stamps lightly into washable paint, enough to coat the raised part of the stamp's surface. They can then press the stamp on a piece of paper.

Activity #2: Have children play a name game. Write each child's name on two cards, turn all the cards face down and mix them up. Then have children find pairs of name cards that match, as in the game Memory. Or have children play the word game *A My Name Is Alice and I Like ____* (something that starts with an *a*). If you prefer, have children write the first letter of their name on a piece of paper, then draw things they like that begin with the same first letter as their own name. For instance, if a child's name starts with *M* she might draw marbles, a moose, and melons.

Activity #3: Create your own name jar. Have each child put the name of a favorite book character into a jar (or a hat or a box). Then have each child draw a name out of the jar. Have children tell about the character each time a name is drawn. Alternatively, have each child think up a favorite name or nickname and make and decorate a nametag. This special name can be their book club name.

Bonus Ideas

- Help children make up a rap featuring all their names.
- If any children in your group know another language, ask them to pronounce or write something in that language and share with the group. Show children samples of different writing systems used around the world.
- Have the group compare and contrast their names (first letter, what it rhymes with, how many letters, etc.).
- Read other books about names, such as *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes, *Sachiko Means Happiness* by Kimiko Sakai, or *My Name is Yoon* by Helen Recorvits.



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